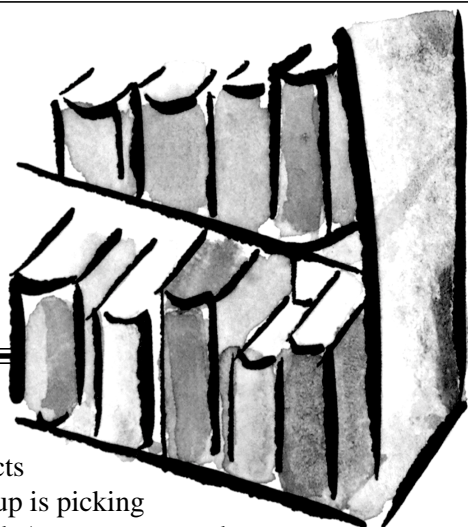


★ LIBRARIANS' LIT LISTS ★

Reading Group Choices



One of the most exciting, yet worrisome aspects of any book group is picking the books to read. As many groups have found, not every good read makes for a lively discussion! If you are looking for a book group to join, consider the monthly group that meets here at Sunnyvale Public Library on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Additionally, if you (or your book group) would like to be notified of any author presentations, or other programs of interest, please leave your e-mail address at the Reference/Information Desk.

Here are some titles that many book groups have used for spirited discussions in the past few years:

Fiction

Cross, Donna Woolfolk F Cross

Pope Joan: a Novel

Truth, or a legend that will not die? In the 850s, a poor woman's quest for knowledge leads her from a small village to becoming Pope. Known as Pope John Anglicus, she was really Pope Joan.

Gruen, Sara F Gruen (Also CD)

Water for Elephants: a Novel

This poignant, tender, meticulously researched book moves between the present, where elderly Jacob Jankowski lives in an assisted living home, and the past, during the Great Depression, when he worked for the circus.

Haddon, Mark F Haddon (Also CD)

Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night

A young, autistic boy, who relates better to animals than people, is determined to solve the mystery of the murder of a neighbor's dog.

Morris, Mary McGarry F Morris (Also CD)

Lost Mother

A moving story of desperate family life during the Depression, and choices people feel forced to make.

Olsson, Linda F Olsson

Astrid & Veronika

Set in a harsh Swedish landscape, this is the story of an unusual friendship between two women of different generations who each share their stories of love and loss.

Robinson, Marilynne F Robinson (Also Large Print and CD)

Gilead

As a Midwestern minister is nearing the end of his life, he writes a letter to his young son, explaining his family's legacy. Pulitzer Prize winner.

Roth, Philip F Roth (Also Large Print, and CD)

Plot Against America

Pulitzer Prize winning author, Philip Roth, creates an alternate history of the United States where Charles Lindbergh defeats FDR for the presidency.

Ruiz Zafón, Carlos F Ruiz Zafón (Also CD)

Shadow of the Wind

A boy mourning the loss of his mother finds comfort in his love for an extraordinary book, which he realizes is dangerous to own, yet impossible to forget.

Memoirs and Biographies

Moehringer, J.R. B Moehringer (Also Large Print)

Tender Bar: a Memoir

A moving memoir about a boy growing up at the local bar in the company of the neighborhood men, who provided him with fatherhood by committee.

Moore, Judith 362.1963 M

Fat Girl: a True Story

An honest memoir of obsession with food and body image; an angst-filled story of growing up with gain and loss.

Scheeres, Julia B Scheeres

Jesus Land: a Memoir

A riveting story of Scheeres' childhood as a white girl with two adopted black brothers, and their stay at a Christian reform school in the Dominican republic.

Walls, Jeanette B Walls (Also CD)

Glass Castle: a Memoir

An unbelievable (yet true) story of the horrors of growing up with the most dysfunctional family imaginable. Yet, Walls triumphs against all odds, and epitomizes the meaning of unconditional love.

General Nonfiction

Gilbert, Elizabeth 910.4 G

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia

After a bitter divorce, Gilbert takes off on a year-long adventure of self discovery. She goes to Italy to eat, India to pray, and Bali "for balancing" and manages to describe each place with soul-searching humor.

Hessler, Peter 915.138 H

River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze

When the author arrived as a Peace Corps volunteer in Fuling, it was the first time in over 50 years that the city had an American resident. While Hessler taught English and American literature, he learned from his students about the ways of a vastly different society.

Larson, Erik 364.1523 L (Also CD)

Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

During the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, two men were hard at work - the architect of the fair itself, and a cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims. Larson has combined meticulous research with spellbinding narrative.

Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin 371.822 M

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace - One School at a Time

When a small Pakistani village cares for Mortenson after he fails to climb K2, the author promises to build its first school - and goes on to build over 50 schools across Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Salzman, Mark 808.042 S

True Notebooks

An inspiring account of the author's first years of teaching writing at Los Angeles Central Juvenile Hall. A revealing portrait of the art of teaching and the craft of writing.

Web sites

Here are just a few of the many resources available online:

www.readinggroupguides.com

for new book info, reading lists, and literary events

www.readinggroupchoices.com

hundreds of selections, along with "topics for discussion" and top book group favorites

www.bookbrowse.com

"exceptional books for discerning readers"

book-clubs-resource.com

includes online book clubs

Library Resources

One of your best resources is to come to the Reference/Information Desk and ask a librarian! The librarians who staff the desk are eager to help steer you in the right direction. We can show you our Best Books reference area, where we keep such titles as ***Reader's Guide to Adventure/Suspense Fiction, Non Fiction Reader's Advisory, Read on: Historical Fiction***, and ***Blood, Bedlam, Bullets and Bad Guys***. We also subscribe to a database called *What Do I Read Next?* which can be accessed either in the library or from your home.



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